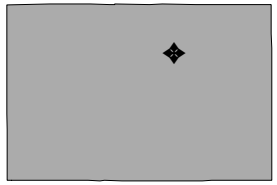
Size: 578 acres
Mission: Provided medical services, training, and research
HRS Score: NA
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: Petroleum hydrocarbons, asbestos, lead-based paint, and radioactive waste
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $11.1 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $17.8 million (FY2001)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2001



Aurora, Colorado

Restoration Background

In July 1995, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of all facilities at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center except the Edgar J. McWhethy Army Reserve Center. All tenants will be relocated to other installations. The Army will transfer ownership of excess property to public and private entities by FY03.

Environmental studies at the installation identified several sites, including aboveground storage tanks, underground storage tanks, landfills, clinical areas, pesticide and herbicide facilities, a wastewater treatment plant, and maintenance areas.

A BRAC cleanup team (BCT) was formed to investigate and ensure cleanup of all areas of concern to facilitate property transfer to the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority. EPA and the state regulatory agency reviewed the scope of work for the Environmental Baseline Survey and the BRAC Cleanup Plan in FY95.

The commander formed a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in FY96. The RAB has met bimonthly to promote the exchange of information among community members and federal and state regulatory agencies. The installation also completed a community relations plan. A low-level radioactive waste landfill (Landfill 5) was excavated, and no radioactivity was detected. Before beginning the excavation, the installation held a media day to address community concerns.

The installation removed tanks and associated contaminated soil from the UST area for the former heating plant and has received formal approval of closure documents from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

In FY97, the installation initiated groundwater studies and Site Inspections for all sites. Accelerated fieldwork techniques (hydropunch, geoprobe, and cone penetrometer) were employed. In addition, a Total Environmental Restoration Contract was employed at the installation.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed studies at four landfills closed prior to 1972: the golf course, pesticide and herbicide facilities, the optical fabrication laboratory, and clinical and maintenance facilities. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decommissioning was completed and a license termination request was forwarded to the NRC. Remediation was started at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) service station and at other underground and aboveground storage tank locations. The BCT reviewed and approved four findings of suitability to transfer (FOSTs) and four findings of suitability to lease (FOSL). Several projects were peer reviewed in FY98. The installation plans to adopt peer review recommendations subject to results of sampling.

Plan of Action

- Based on studies completed in FY98, evaluate the need for risk assessments and remediation at the maintenance areas, the Clinical Salvage Yard, and Optical Fabrication Laboratory
- Independent technical review (or Peer Review) scheduled for April 1999
- Perform NRC confirmatory survey if required for NRC license termination in FY99
- Select landfill closure options and start Remedial Design and remediation in FY99
- Perform risk assessment at the golf course and pesticide storage facilities in FY99
- Complete investigations at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and Perinatal Research Center in FY99

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year